

GLENNURQUHART RURAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MONDAY 12th MARCH 2018

OPEN MEETING

Present: Susan Clark (SC) Chair, Carolyn Wilson (CW) Secretary, Nicola Vestey (NV) Treasurer and 20 members

Apologies: 3 apologies were received.

Full list of attendees and apologies is attached as Appendix A

1. Previous minutes and matters arising:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2017 had been available for scrutiny by members. The minutes had been approved; proposed by Anne Macdonald and seconded by Gordon Watson.

There were no matters arising, not separately covered by the agenda

2. Community Action Plan

SC summarised progress. A Steering Group had been set up, comprising representatives of GURCA, the Community Council, Chamber of Commerce and Soirbheas.

The Steering Group had gone out to tender to 4 consultancy groups for the work to produce the Community Action Plan. One of these had declined to bid for the work. Two of the groups had failed to submit bids. One bid was received, from the same firm who are undertaking the Fort Augustus CAP work, and the costs have been negotiated to within GURCA's budget.

Gordon Findlay had drawn up three grant applications for funding the support work on the CAP. (i) Awards for All - pending, (ii) Soirbheas – should hear within next 4 weeks (iii) Your Cash, Your Choice – unsuccessful. However, SC remains confident of obtaining sufficient funding to be able to go ahead with this work. It is hoped that the process can be started in May.

3. Financial statement:

NV gave a summary of the current position and anticipated budget for the coming year. This is attached as Appendix B.

In the current financial year, GURCA should break even. It was noted that fireworks event license was a significant cost, but would not reoccur for 3 years.

However, for the coming year, NV expected that we would need to bring in around £2,000 from fundraising, in order to cover our costs. This gave weight to the drive to identify a general fundraising sub-committee as soon as possible.

4. Hall transfer update:

CW advised the meeting that the legal transfer of the hall to GURCA was being delayed due to a difference of opinion between GURCA's legal representatives, Harper Macleod, and OSCR. This matter was being chased by SC, and it was hoped to have a definitive view of the necessary process within a week.

There was no suggestion by any party that the transfer could not be effected, but the timescales may prove longer than first suggested by Harper Macleod.

SC/CW were not happy with the level of service being provided by the lawyers, but at this stage, it was considered there was no choice but to continue with them. However, once the process was complete, GURCA would make its opinion known to the firm at the highest level.

An update on the situation would be provided at the next open meeting

ACTION – SC/CW to pursue this matter and advise members of progress at the next meeting.

CW advised the meeting that the hall had broken even in 2017, which was a very encouraging result, as this was the first year there had been no income at all from letting the cottage (now no longer classed as accommodation).

There were adequate reserves going forward to maintain the hall's operations until such time as the transfer is effected and grants for refurbishment can be sought.

In addition, around £18,000 was available to transfer to GURCA as ring-fenced funds towards the Refurbishment Project.

5. Data Protection:

New data protection regulations will be coming into force in May 2018. SC believes that for the purpose of these regulations, GURCA will be classed as a data handler and processor. SC / CW will investigate the implications of the regulations for GURCA and propose mechanisms to ensure we comply.

Meanwhile, several members made helpful suggestions as to how CW could maintain privacy for members when sending out email information.

ACTION - SC/CW to provide a report on findings and progress at the next meeting.

6. COBEN:

On behalf of the COBEN Steering Group, Gordon Findlay gave a brief summary of the background to the project. The end result for the community would be a Local Energy Plan that should reflect what the community wants and believes important regarding energy initiatives and local transport issues.

Much of the work to date has been by technical consultants, characterising what kind of community we are, in relation to types of properties, different fuels used, etc.

However, the work has now reached the point where the consultants are ready to seek feedback from as many members of the community as possible about what is

important. Several local 'ambassadors' have been identified, with more volunteers now coming forward. Their role will be to speak to colleagues and friends to try and engage with as wide a range of local people as possible and ensure they are aware of the project and how to input their views.

Meanwhile, one exciting potential project being investigated is the use of waste water heat transfer capability, to provide heat for the hall and/or other community buildings within a feasible distance of the waste water treatment works in Kilmore.

None of this is costing the community anything (other than time and some commitment). The waste water investigation has been separately funded, via a European funding source identified by SC. The funding will also cover the cost of producing a short video, which we can use to showcase and promote our community activities to other potential funders.

7. Loch Ness Homes:

The roundabout by the surgery is now completed and the road reopened to 2 way traffic.

Next Liaison meeting is w/c 19th March, and Skye Builders will be attending.

Concerns about the management of the building phasing will be raised via the Community Council,

8. Community Resilience Plan:

CW advised the meeting that it was hoped we would, within the next few weeks, finally get the necessary electrical connections installed at the hall to allow SSE to provide a temporary generator in the event of an extended loss of power. This would mean that the Community Resilience Plan, drafted several years ago, could actually be effected if required.

Once the fittings were complete, CW intended to convene a Meeting of the Resilience Committee to review the plan, and make any necessary amendments.

9. Membership:

SC welcomed 2 new members to the meeting; Donna Brady and Tish Fearn.

CW confirmed that GURCA now had over 200 members, which is very encouraging. However, our aim had been to recruit 500 members, so still a way to go!

It was agreed that CW would circulate the membership form to all members, and encourage them to identify potential new members.

ACTION – CW to circulate membership form via email

10 Events:

- ***Craft Market on the village green*** Marj Tait advised that local homes and businesses had been consulted about the proposed markets, and no significant matters had been raised. The first two markets will be held on 14th April and 2nd May and would serve as a trial to gauge support. If the markets

are a success, they will be opened to other vendors, and proceeds of stall rentals will be passed to GURCA.

- **Children's parties.** Angela Montague and Karen Mackenzie confirmed they were stepping down from organising the Halloween and Christmas parties. However they had identified one successor – Jenny Neale. SC recorded thanks to Angela and Karen for the many years they had dedicated to running the parties so successfully. Anne Macdonald suggested it would be prudent to identify a second named individual to ensure there would always be someone to take the lead if required. The successors to Angela and Karen would require PVG clearance – Anne to lead this process.
- **Fireworks.** Nothing to report at this point in the year. Anne Macdonald advised that we would probably need a team to clear the bonfire ashes this year, with particular regard to clearing waste residual metal such as nails. Members to consider whether they know of any specialist machinery locally available that might help this process.

11. Sub-committees:

There was still a shortage of volunteers for some of the sub-committees that had been identified.

The most pressing need at the moment is to find an individual who would be willing to lead a small group to undertake local fundraising activities. This need not be onerous, as most events are very well supported by helpers. However, it does need someone to pull things together and plan activities.

Several members at the meeting confirmed they would be willing to help, but nobody as yet has stepped forward to act as lead.

This may well impact on GURCA's ability to break even in the coming year.

All members are asked to consider if this is something they might take on.

12 Correspondence:

No correspondence to discuss

13 AOB

Mhairi Marshall advised the meeting that members would again be volunteering to fill the goody bags for the Etape in April. Payment for this is in the form of a donation from the organisers to a chosen charity – Mhairi suggested this year it would be GURCA. If anyone wishes to help, please contact Mhairi .

Erik Trelfer suggested a GURCA membership Card which would confer local benefits for members, (e.g. reduced rates in cafes and bars, reduced entrance fees to local events etc). This would potentially encourage new members. SC advised this was something she hoped to discuss via the Chamber of Commerce.

It was agreed the next meeting should be held earlier than previously planned, towards the end of June. ***The new meeting date is Monday 18th June at 8pm, Glenurquhart Public Hall***

Appendix A

GURCA meeting 3rd October 2017: List of attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Susan Clark

Carolyn Wilson

Nicola Vestey

Marjory Tait

Erik Trelfer

Angela Montague

Pam Lucas

Miranda Service

Gordon Findlay

Anne MacDonald

Jan Bell

Neil Macinnes

Ewan Cameron

Joy Cameron

Fiona Urquhart

Mhairi Marshall

Gordon Watson

Karen Mackenzie

Elizabeth Owen

Donna Brady

Tish Fearn

Helen MacLennan

Peter MacDonald

Apologies

Margaret Davidson, Margaret Varwell, Adrian Varwell